

FAREWELL ED COLEMAN

Another magnificent, tall fir has been reclaimed by the forest with the passing of University of Oregon Emeritus Professor Edwin Leon Coleman. The University of Oregon and the Eugene community have been enriched by this kind, courageous and remarkable man's life, service, friendship and example to all people of good will.

Thousands of people, colleagues, students and townspeople alike have been touched by the warmth of this superb African-American scholar, musician, humanitarian, and devoted husband and father. As a couple, Ed and Charmaine Coleman just radiated a love for people and an appreciation for each person's dignity.

Ed Coleman loved justice and intellectual honesty. He was deeply passionate about civil rights and the need for racial harmony and reconciliation.

It is almost unbearable to think of a Eugene without Dr. Coleman's kind advice and outspoken wisdom. If there was ever a glaring injustice at the university or in the community, we could count on Ed's insightful and independent voice of reason.

How much richer are the thousands of us whose lives he touched, whose intellects he stirred and to whose sense of justice and fairness he appealed.

Ed Coleman epitomized the wonderful tradition of University of Oregon faculty scholarship and civic leadership. He was a thousand-percent UO and Duck loyalist over the decades — always at the games cheering, a timekeeper at Hayward Field Track meets, participating in meetings and events.

How we will miss him now.

Scott Bartlett
Eugene

APOCALYPSE NOW

The last time a fascist held this much power, it took most of the world to defeat him and decades to recover from the results of his thuggery.

One can't help but wonder, then, when the modern American Left (sic) will come to realize that marches, stern telephone calls to elected representatives, endless Facebook polemics and angry letters (such as this) will likely not bring down this nascent totalitarian regime.

Is it possible? Yes, to the extent that anything is possible. But likely?

Bill Smee
Springfield

TEACH THEM TO THINK

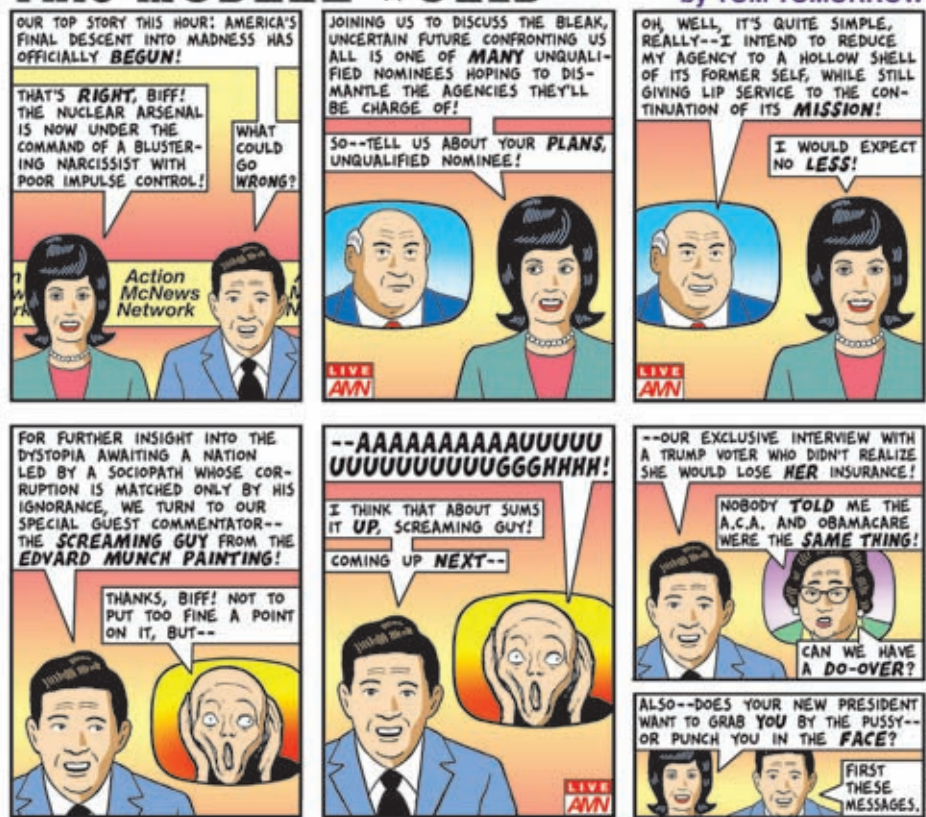
I question that testing is a real indicator of how well a student will do in real life [Dear CAPE 1/19]. I would suggest there is a better metric.

Let us take a different number to determine which schools need to improve. Let's look at taxes paid five years after graduation. After all, we are educating children to be good members of society, and good members pay taxes.

Yes, some will still be at university, some will be in the military and maybe five years is not the sweet spot, but that's not the point. We need to educate our children to be able to cope in an ever-complex environment, not how to take tests. They need to know how to reconcile a credit card bill,

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



they need to know about economics, science, nutrition, history, philosophy, literature, how to play well with others, etc.

When you get down to it, they need to learn two things: critical thinking and how to learn. The former will allow them to understand the ramifications of their decisions and the latter will allow them to learn new skills when the skills they already know have become obsolete.

Testing takes your eye off the ball.

Gregg Ferry
Corvallis

TAKING STEPS

Thanks to *Eugene Weekly* for reporting on how people are feeling about the next four years and what to do ["Kicking the Trump Funk," Jan. 19]. This helps answer one of the suggestions, showing us that we are not alone.

Of course, there is a step we can all take: Get involved to make sure important safety net programs are not cut back. Alone or together we can call and write our representatives and senators to fund these programs like SNAP, formerly food stamps, that battles hunger.

I volunteer with RESULTS (results.org) and we write letters together at our meetings to protect and introduce programs that make a difference. The talk by Prof. Sara Jayaraman, "Food First: Justice, Security and Sovereignty," was an opportunity to learn more about our economy ["Food Fight: Forked Author Discusses Food Industry Labor Issues," Jan. 19]. Then use this knowledge to inform your elected representatives.

So thanks again to *EW* for keeping us informed of opportunities to learn and make a difference.

Willie Dickerson
Snohomish, Wash.

GOVERNMENT WAGES

We have requested of the Eugene City Council that they provide a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for city employees. Today the staff report to the council gave them

much detail about how the city was paying to the category of employees they call "temporary," some of whom have been working for the city more than 20 years. Of these 730 employees, some qualify for federal aid in the form of food stamps because of their low wage.

The presentation to the city council was about "raising the current rate" and its financial implications. Concern was indicated that other wages of staff with more responsibility would have to be raised, with additional costs.

The massive problem of inequality in the country often focuses on those few who have way too much money. And that is probably a problem. But I think the bigger problem is about the many people who have too little. We can help solve that problem by raising the wages of the low-income people.

We should be promoting "good jobs" in the city by paying our own employees a decent living wage, at least enough so that they can get off the food stamp rolls. That would be good government policy. City budget committee meetings are coming up soon.

Bob Cassidy
Eugene

TRACKING TOXINS

The Department of Environmental Quality is requiring Union Pacific to clean 20 acres of contaminated soil at their Ashland rail yard of petroleum, arsenic and other chemicals before sale.

A 1994 DEQ investigation and subsequent public health assessment of the Eugene UP rail yard by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in 2007 revealed groundwater and crawlspace contamination in homes in the Bethel, Train-song and South River Road areas near the rail yard. Volatile organic compounds were found in home crawlspaces; tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, dichloroethylene and vinyl chloride contaminated residential water wells; and creosote, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals, pe-

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